

willing Americans to do more of the heavy lifting in their communities as we all work to improve our Nation.

Mr. President, I once again commend the Points of Light Institute on this landmark anniversary.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LAURA RHEA

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that today I honor and recognize more than 25 years of service by Laura Rhea to our great State of Arkansas. Laura has served the Arkansas Rice Depot with steadfast leadership as President and CEO, ensuring the organization remained a faith-based ministry and developing innovative solutions to ending hunger.

Hunger and poverty are not just global issues; they are so pervasive that we all have some experience with them in our local communities. Worldwide, three billion people, nearly half the world's population, live on merely \$2 per day. In our Nation alone, almost 36.2 million Americans struggle day in and day out to find adequate nutritious food. More than 12.4 million children live in households that are food insecure. According to the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, approximately 80 percent of supplemental nutrition assistance goes to households with children, many of them in working families, including military families.

In Arkansas, Laura Rhea has been making a difference to reduce those figures. Under her leadership, Arkansas Rice Depot has grown from a small hunger program that distributed only rice, to a comprehensive hunger agency that distributes almost 7 million pounds of food and supplies in Arkansas each year.

Laura grew up in North Little Rock. As a child she dreamed of becoming a missionary, but never dreamed that her mission field would be feeding hungry Arkansans. She is a certified volunteer manager and was recognized as a certified fund raising executive in 1995.

Laura developed Food for Kids, a backpack program serving over 600 schools in Arkansas, sending home backpacks of food to over 25,000 students who face food insecurity. This program has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal, CNN, and has been replicated in over 40 States.

Laura also developed Simple Pleasures, a gourmet gift shop that sells the Rice Depot line of soup and chili mixes. Proceeds from the gift shop are used to purchase food for Rice Depot's hunger relief efforts.

Faith is an important part of Laura's life. In 2003, Laura suffered a heat-stroke unloading a truck. Although she would continue to serve her life's mission from a wheelchair, she is not limited by her disability. She often quotes Psalms 37:11 to sum up her life, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

And last but certainly not least, Laura's family—her husband Don, daughter Allison, and four grandchildren are not only inspirations for her but also stalwart supporters. In fact, her daughter Allison shares her mother's mission and has served the Rice Depot for the past 12 years. In addition, Laura's granddaughter worked there over the summer, bringing three generations of her family to the effort to wipe out hunger.

As you can see, Laura Rhea is a generous, compassionate, and dedicated individual. So as Rice Depot celebrates its 27th year of progress in finding sensible solutions to hunger in Arkansas, I salute The Rice Depot, its staff, the many volunteers, and especially Laura Rhea for their commitment to feeding those who hunger in Arkansas. •

##### TRIBUTE TO PARKER WESTBROOK

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with Arkansas pride that today I honor one of the great sons of the Natural State, Parker Westbrook of Nashville, AR. On October 20, 2009, the Howard County Democratic Central Committee is sponsoring a dinner to honor his lifelong public service to Arkansas and his country.

The day after Christmas in 1948, Westbrook set out with newly elected Congressman Boyd Tackett of Nashville for Washington, DC. Over the course of the next 26 years, Parker served his home State in our Nation's Capital for four members of the Arkansas congressional delegation, most notably as a special assistant to U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. In 1975, he returned to Arkansas and served as a special assistant to Governor David Pryor.

Although public service in government was a calling for much of Mr. Westbrook's life, his true passion was historic preservation. Westbrook was born in 1926 and was the third generation of the Westbrook-Parker families to live in the home of his maternal grandfather, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house and farmstead provided Parker with an early appreciation for historic preservation, and after leaving Washington in 1974, he set out on a course to help preserve Arkansas's cultural legacy.

While working for Governor Pryor, Westbrook was elected to the Pioneer Washington Foundation, Inc. Board, a private nonprofit group committed to preserving Historic Washington. Washington, AR, is home to the oldest continuous post office in Arkansas, established on February 23, 1820 shortly after Arkansas became a territory. In 1979, Westbrook became a full-time volunteer and restoration adviser. In 1980, he became the executive director and was elected president of the foundation in 1990. He continued in that role until May of this year.

In 1975, Westbrook was elected to the Historic Arkansas Museum Board of

Directors and has served that organization continuously for 34 years. For many years, he was chairman and now holds the title of chairman emeritus.

Westbrook was also appointed to the Arkansas State Review Board of the Historic Preservation Program in 1975. He was reappointed three times by Governor Bill Clinton and again by Governor Jim Guy Tucker and served as chairman for 4½ years.

In addition, Westbrook has served on a number of other Arkansas historic entities including the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, Department of Arkansas Heritage Advisory Board, the President William J. Clinton Birthplace Foundation, Corinth Cemetery Association in Howard County, Friends of the Carousel, and Main Street Arkansas Advisory Board.

He has been awarded the Arkansas Historical Association's Endowed History Award and was recognized in 1986 as Arkansas's Distinguished Citizen for his volunteer work.

In 1995, President Clinton recognized Westbrook's longstanding service to historic preservation and appointed him to the President's Council for Historic Preservation where he served until 2003.

In addition, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt twice appointed Parker to the National Park System Advisory Board where he served as chairman of the Committee on National Historic Landmarks.

As you can see, Parker Westbrook has a long and distinguished career serving his community, Arkansas, and our Nation.

As the Howard County Democratic Central Committee recognizes Mr. Westbrook's service, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation on behalf of all Arkansans for his devotion and commitment to public service throughout his life. •

##### 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of South Portland, ME, on the momentous occasion of its 275th anniversary. What a tremendous milestone and enduring testament to the church's centuries of spiritual leadership and goodwill.

Established in 1733, the church held its inaugural worship service in 1734 and has, through its steady growth and exemplary commitment to others, expanded its ministries, championed education for all, and engendered an abiding sense of fellowship for literally hundreds of years. Although the physical buildings of worship may have changed over time, the church's fundamental mission—to foster its congregation's spiritual life while offering outreach to others through words and actions—has not wavered.

Although this church's history and time-honored presence within the